



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New England District

696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Date: May 16, 2000**

**Comment Period Ends: June 15, 2000**

**File Number: 199902902**

**In Reply Refer To: (Mr.) Laurie H.Suda**

**Or by e-mail: Laurie.H. Suda@usace.army.mil**

The Town of Groton, Town Hall, 173 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts has requested a Corps of Engineers permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to discharge dredge and fill material to increase the depth and improve the water quality of Thompson Mill Pond on the Squannacook River. The excavated material will be used as capping material for the town's land fill. The excavation will take place during mid to late summer when water levels are most likely to be at their lowest level. Excavation operations will take approximately 4-8 weeks

The excavation of Thompson Mill Pond will remove 12,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediments from a 2.7-acre pond. Approximately 40 linear feet of bank will be temporary disturbed for the construction of the access road for the excavation equipment into the pond. Also there will be temporary alteration of 150 square feet of wetlands for the installation of a cofferdam, if necessary to segregate the pond from the river. See plans entitled "TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS THOMPSON MILL POND DREDGING" in 3 sheet dated "MARCH 2000."

The excavation of Thompson Mill Pond will take place in the dry. The dewatering will be accomplished by pumping the water from the pond to the river. If the water levels are above the natural berm that separates the pond and the river, then a temporary cofferdam [e.g. sandbags or a Portadam<sup>(TM)</sup>] will be used to enhance the existing berm to segregate the pond and the river. This work may temporary alter up to 150 square feet of wetlands depending on the length of the cofferdam needed to effectively separate the pond from the river. If the water levels are low, then a cofferdam will not be needed. Upon completion of the excavation operation, the cofferdam will be removed and the wetlands will be restored to pre-construction conditions.

Dewatering of the pond during excavation operations will be designed to minimize turbidity and suspended solids in the Squannacook River during construction. A drawing of the temporary dewatering sump is attached.

Capture of fish and aquatic animals and release into the Squannacook River will be accomplished under a permit from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Once the Pond is dewatered a temporary 12-foot-wide access road from the existing parking lot will be constructed to provide access for the excavation equipment. Upon completion of the work the temporary access road will be removed and the bank will be restored.

The excavation will not take place within 6 feet of the aquatic vegetated area of the pond near the peninsular and the berg as shown on the Sheet 2 and 3. Higher, drier sediments will be excavated first and then transported in watertight containers to the landfill. As more space within the pond becomes available, sediments will be excavated and stockpiled for dewatering within the pond and then transported to the landfill. (See Figure1 Project Location Map) Conventional excavation and earth-moving equipment will be used to transport the excavated material to the landfill.

When the excavation is complete, the Town plans to create a 1.4-acre passive-use public recreation park at the existing, privately owned parking lot adjacent to the pond. The park as currently envisioned, will provide picnic tables and beaches.

**This project is located on the USGS Ayer quadrangle sheet at UTM coordinates 71995 N 28445 E.**

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact (Mr.) Laurie H. Suda at (978) 318-8493, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR  
DETAILS OF EVALUATION  
FACTORS

Karen Kirk Adams  
Chief, Permits & Enforcement Section  
Regulatory Branch

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity in the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, and no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

- a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
- b. The permit area has been recently created.
- c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.
- d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the District Engineer is hereby requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency provide comments regarding the presence of and potential impacts to listed species or its critical habitat.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- ( X ) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- ( X ) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- ( X ) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved Coastal Zone Management Programs. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

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If you would prefer not to continue receiving public notices, please check here ( ) and return this portion of the public notice to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New England District, ATTN: Regulatory Branch, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

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